

HITTING AND PITCHING STARS IN AMERICAN AND NATIONAL LEAGUES CLASSIFIED IN FIGURES

HOG ISLAND SWAMPS MADE INTO MODERN BALL FIELD IN LESS THAN FIVE WEEKS

Admiral Bowles's Men Set New Record When Twelve-Acre Plot Is Prepared for Opening Today—Ninety Thousand Dollars Spent to Fix the Grounds

By ROBERT W. MAXWELL
Sports Editor Evening Public Ledger

ONCE upon a time there lived a youthful person who got by without any cares or worries lived on the fat of the land and basked in the sunlight of content. Every wish was taken care of, his orders executed promptly and no obstacle was too great to overcome. In other words, he lived by the sweat of other people's brows and had a system which never missed fire. This young guy was named Aladdin, and with the aid of a shiny old lamp he accomplished wonders. All he had to do was to rub the lamp, tell his troubles to a servant who appeared immediately and the deed was done.

It was pretty soft for Aladdin in those days, and the only reason he didn't have an auto or airship was because they didn't build them.

The wonderful lamp was lost for thousands of years and almost forgotten until a few weeks ago. It evidently has been recovered by the officials at Hog Island, for that is the only conclusion one can draw after witnessing the work which has been accomplished in the last four weeks.

It was on June 24 when Admiral Bowles rubbed the lamp and said: "Let's have a big baseball field, the largest in the United States, with all modern improvements, and have it finished on July 27 so the boys can play a game there."

The Admiral's wishes were carried out, the grounds are ready and the largest field in the country is in shape for championship baseball.

It is beyond the wildest dreams even to imagine that a park of that size could be constructed in less than five weeks. It takes about a year to do the same work on the outside, but down on the island, where thousands of skilled workmen are on the job and every man tries to do more than his share, a little thing like building a ball park is just an incident in their busy lives. They evidently were surprised because they were not asked to build a dozen.

Swamp Converted Into a Modern Baseball Field

BUT the story of the band of builders led by General Foreman J. B. McCabe will go down in athletic history as one of the greatest feats. It shows what can be accomplished under difficulties if the men work together and typifies more than anything the progressive American spirit. It also is an example of the work being done in the shipyard and proves that the program which calls for 180 ships in a year will be carried out to the letter.

At Ninety-fourth street and Tinicum avenue there was a swamp on Monday, June 24. The ground was lined with furrows, holes containing stagnant pools were everywhere and the place was the most dismal and uninviting one could possibly imagine. Not even the wildest stretch of imagination could picture the spot as a baseball field, and when the announcement was made the only reply was a huge flock of healthy laughs. It was like building a stadium in one of the Jersey swamps.

One hundred and twenty-five men started in to fix up the place and after a week there was a noticeable change. The ground was leveled, the holes filled in, the water was absent and the doubtful ones admitted that a ball park would be there some day. Then fresh soil was spread over the top and the baseball diamond laid under with tile, making a perfect drainage.

Every modern improvement was installed, the experts having studied the plans of every big league ball park in the country. Nothing was overlooked.

Then a fence began to grow on the outskirts of the field and the grand stand and bleachers sprung up as if by magic. The diamond was laid out and the grounds made ready for today's game. And all of this in less than five weeks!

Twelve Acres of Ground Surrounded by a Fence

I VISITED the new athletic field yesterday and was astounded at the sight. The new grand stand and bleachers look small in comparison with the rest of the place, but even a Yale stadium would have room to spare if placed in the field. There are twelve acres of level ground surrounded by a fence in which more than 25,000 feet of lumber was used. The diamond looks puny in that enormous stretch of ground; for there is room for three or four. The left field fence is one-eighth of a mile from the home plate, in center field it is too far even to guess the distance and the right field barrier, which is closer, still is a good distance away. It looks twice as large as Shibe Park, and the only way to get a ball over the fence is to carry it over.

There is not a blade of grass on the field, but that is due to the fact that it cannot be grown overnight. However, seed will be planted and before the summer is over a green covering will be there.

FAR off in the distance, near the left field fence, there are six tennis courts and nine more will be constructed in a short time. Between third base and the fence, off the foul line, a gymnasium costing \$30,000 will be constructed. The ground for the gym was broken Thursday night and, judging from the speed already shown, it would not be at all surprising to see the entire structure completed within a couple of weeks.

There are seats for 4,000 persons in the stands and room for an army in the field. An automobile entrance is at the right of the bleachers, and, to quote C. D. Dyer, Jr., president of the athletic association, "there is room to park every car in Philadelphia." After looking it over I am forced to believe that Mr. Dyer is right. And that place was put together in less than five weeks!

Admiral Bowles Made It Possible to Build Field

LAST January Dyer conceived the idea of building an athletic field for the employees of Hog Island. He experienced some difficulty in launching his plan at the start, discovering to his dismay that the only thing he had was an idea—noting else. Finally it came to the attention of Admiral Francis T. Bowles, who immediately gave his approval and saw to it that an appropriation of \$30,000 was made by the Emergency Fleet Corporation. The Admiral knew the value of athletics, knew it created a more co-operative spirit, helped the morale of the men and drew them closer together.

Admiral Bowles, who is more popular than any executive who ever ruled 30,000 employees, realized that the men needed some recreation and believed it better to give it to them at the island than have them seek it elsewhere. He studied the men playing on the baseball team and found them to be hard workers on the shipways. He assisted the building of the field in every way possible, for he believed it to be a model for other shipyards to follow.

I never have interviewed Admiral Bowles and only have seen him at a distance. But to discover the work he is doing at Hog Island all one has to do is to talk with any employee. They know the Admiral's record, they admire him for the work he has done for them and not one man hesitates to express his feelings. Few men can claim tribute like that.

From what I could learn yesterday there is a feeling among the officials at Hog Island that athletics create competition, which makes one shipbuilding crew try to outdo the other, and thus increase the working efficiency of the men. This probably is a crude way of putting it, but Admiral Bowles and his assistants want to see the same spirit on the shipways as on the ball field. It is "more spirit, more ships."

Another thing is that a man's standing is based upon the amount of work he does on the shipways. His work on the athletic field is secondary.

Football Will Be Played Next Fall

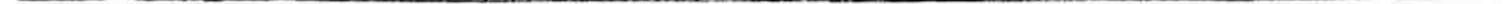
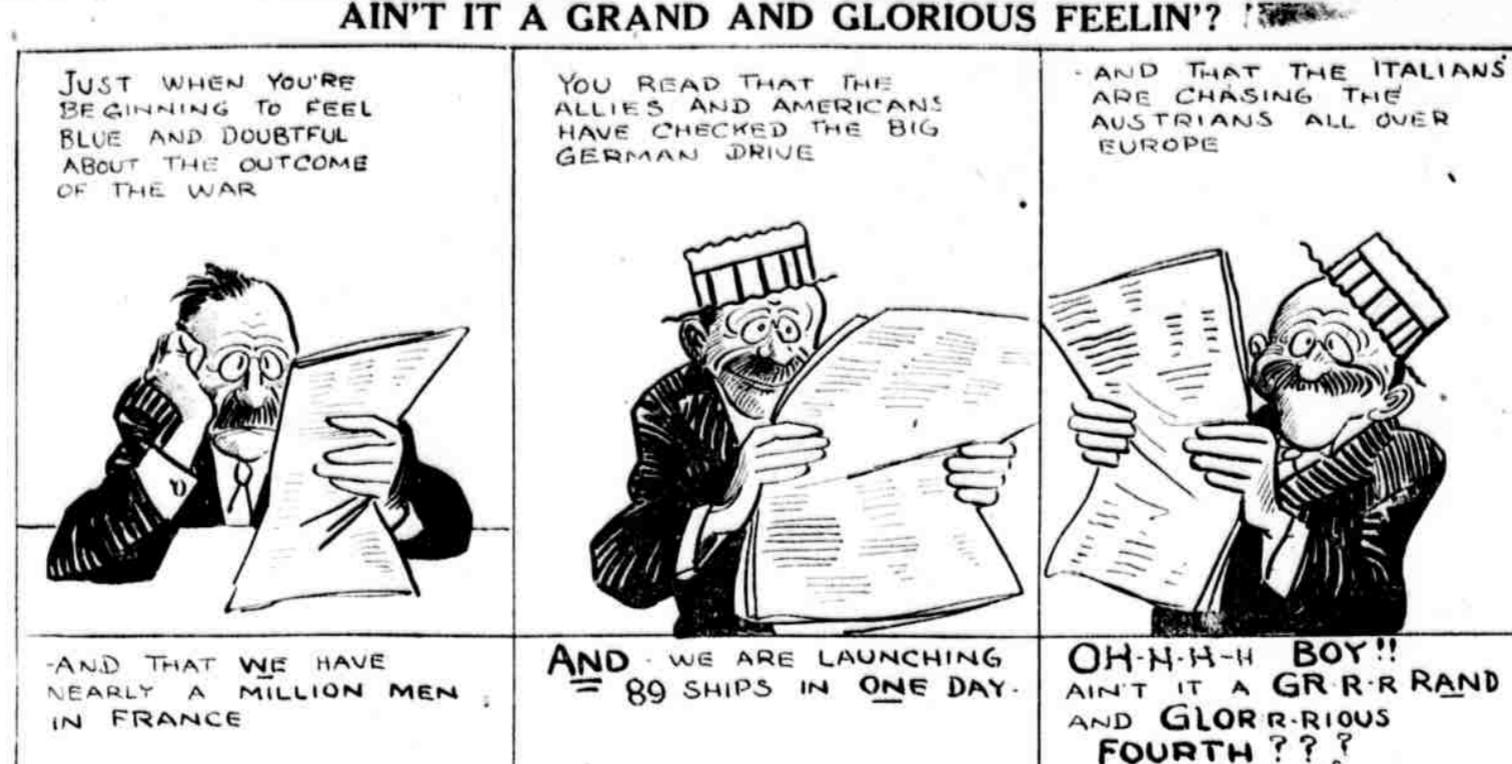
THERE are great plans under way to push all branches of athletics on the island. There will be an interdepartment baseball league with twelve clubs, a shipway league with six teams and a protection department league with four. These teams will start playing in a short time on the new field.

In the fall football will be played and Dyer, who was halfback on the team eleven in 1906 and 1907, will look after it. In addition, there will be soccer, basketball and a gun club organized. The men will have a chance to participate in all branches of sport in winter as well as summer.

The gymnasium should be popular and every one is eligible to join on payment of an initiation fee of \$2. All of the initiation fees will be used for extension and improving facilities, and the expenses will be paid by the dues, gate receipts, canteen profits and advertisements.

There will be four classes of members—honorary, privileged, active and associate. It is Mr. Dyer's plan to allow any person in Philadelphia to join as an associate member and avail himself of the privileges of the gymnasium and athletic field. Nate Cartmell, the former Penn sprinter and Olympic champion, is athletic director and will have charge of the gymnasium and maintenance of the grounds.

With \$30,000 to select from, there is no doubt that high-class teams will be put on the field. The baseball club in particular is improving every month with the big leagues ready to shut down on September 1. The dorms should furnish some exciting sport for the fans. Most of the games probably will be in the yards before another month.



GOLF STROKES ARE EXPLAINED

Chick Evans Tells How Intentional Slice is to Be Made

NOT A HARD SHOT

By CHARLES (CHICK) EVANS, JR.

A number of readers have written me asking suggestions for improving their golf strokes. And I believe I can answer all of these queries in an article which will be of interest to every golfer. It seems that the strokes in which most of my readers are interested are those wherein a pulled shot or a sliced shot is used to meet an intended or unexpected hazard. As every amateur golfer knows, an intentional slice or pulled shot is perfectly possible and is quite frequently used by skillful players. The execution of such a shot is naturally a matter of stance, in order that the face of the club may be drawn across the ball from the right side, thereby creating the desired curve to the left. There is rather an analogy between the slice and billiard and billiard pool, as is also the case in a pitched baseball. The main idea is to impart a whirling motion to the ball which makes it curve to the right but which is caused by the left hand which is held low and the right hand relatively easy for me to teach my readers how to execute these shots, but I tell them frankly it will be a difficult matter for them to successfully make them without a tremendous amount of practice.

By this action tennis players who at the last moment find that they can enter the tournament may do so by getting in communication with any one of the following committee: Paul Gibbons, chairman, 1820 Race street, Walnut 1326; Howard M. Lowman, Common wealth Building, Walnut 2635; Warren Miller, Whistling Woods, 1820 Race street; E. P. Hall, exec. dir. of Fidelity Life Insurance Company, 2927; or C. N. Beard, Lonsdale 2292.

The men's singles and doubles championship tournament of Eastern Pennsylvania, which was to have started this afternoon on the courts of the Venetian club, has been postponed until Monday afternoon. This action was decided upon during the past week. It also was decided to keep open the entry list until noon on Monday.

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